

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 04663

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GE, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE-GDR PARLIAMENTARY VISITS

REFS: (A) 77 TOKYO 19580 (NOTAL)
(B) 77 BERLIN 9388 (NOTAL)

1. DURING THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN
A NUMBER OF VISITS BACK AND FORTH BY MEMBERS OF THE
JAPANESE DIET AND THE GDR VOLKSKAMMER. FROM MAY 17
THROUGH 25 AN EAST GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION,
HEADED BY HANS MODROW, CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
GDR-JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GROUP AND FIRST
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SECRETARY OF THE DRESDEN BEZIRK SED PARTY ORGANIZATION,
VISITED JAPAN. MODROW MET WITH THE JAPANESE FOREIGN
MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF THE JAPANESE DIET. MODROW ALSO
MET WITH HIROSHI TACHIKI, MEMBER OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF JAPAN.

2. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UPPER HOUSE OF THE JAPANESE

DIET, KEN YASUI, VISITED EAST BERLIN FROM JUNE 27 TO 30 AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT OF THE GDR VOLKSKAMMER SINDERMAN. WHILE IN THE GDR HE AND HIS PARTY MET WITH SED CHIEF AND HEAD OF STATE HONECKER, PREMIER STOPH, SED PARTY SECRETARY FOR ECONOMICS GUNTER MITTAG, AND FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER. ACCORDING TO THE EAST GERMAN PRESS, HONECKER TOLD YASUI THAT THE GDR IS PREPARED TO DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE ON A LONG-TERM, MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL BASIS. ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN, THE YASUI VISIT HAD BEEN ARRANGED DURING THE VISIT BY FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER TO JAPAN LAST FALL (SEE REFTELS).

3. FROM JULY 3 TO 6 A STUDY GROUP CONSISTING OF DEPUTIES OF JAPAN'S LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY VISITED THE GDR AT THE INVITATION OF THE EAST GERMAN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE. THE JAPANESE DELEGATION WAS LEAD BY KEIWA OKUDA, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF THE JAPANESE DIET. OKUDA AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION MET WITH HERMANN AXEN, PARTY SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO A JAPANESE EMBASSY SOURCE HERE, THE PARLIAMENTARY VISITS WENT SMOOTHLY, BUT WITH NO SIGNIFICANT CONTENT. DISCUSSIONS CONTAINED LITTLE OR CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE AND CONSISTED LARGELY OF PROTOCOL AND CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES AND THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT A VERY HIGH-LEVEL OF ABSTRACTION. ACCORDING TO THE JAPANESE HERE, NO CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON BILATERAL ISSUES OR ON ASIAN OR EUROPEAN POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

5. THE GDR CLEARLY WENT TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTH TO GIVE THE JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARIANS RED CARPET TREATMENT. THEIR MEETINGS WITH HONECKER, STOPH, MITTAG AND AXEN IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE GDR ATTACHES TO ENCOURAGING IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH JAPAN AND TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS FROM NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN GENERAL. IN OFFICIAL GDR COMMENTS ON THESE VISITS THE THEME THAT EMERGED WAS THAT EAST GERMANY'S RELATIONS WITH JAPAN ARE A MODEL FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND CAPITALIST COUNTRIES. END COMMENT. BOLEN

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